1	2	3	
2.	Potassium Chloride (Muriate of Potash) (Granular)	(i) Moisture per cent by weight, maximum .	0.5
		(ii) Water soluble potash (as K_2O) per cent by weight, minimum . .	60.0
		(iii) Sodium (as NaCl) per cent by weight, maximum .	3.5
		(iv) Magnesium (as M_gCl_2) per cent by weight, maximum	1.0
		(v) Particle size—90 per cent of the material shall pass through 3.35 mm IS sieve and be retained on 1 mm IS sieve not more than 5 per cent shall be below 1 mm IS sieve.	

Customs duty on drug intermediates

3888. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the drug intermediates which are levied customs duty of Zero per cent, 25 per cent and fifty per cent after current year's budget and what was the duty on these intermediates earlier ;

(b) whether any one of these intermediates is produced in the country and if so, what is the difference between its indigenous price and CIF import price ;

(c) whether any changes in the price of the bulk drugs have been made consequent to increase/reduction in customs duty, and if not, by when such changes would be made ; and

(d) what are the names of the intermediates in the negative list and what is the purpose of keeping them in such a list ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALLEIRO) : (a) to (c) The names of drug intermediates and the applicable rates of import duties after the current year's Budget are as contained in the notifications issued by the Ministry of Finance on 1-3-1994. The import duties earlier applicable on these intermediates were as notified by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. There are a large number of such intermediates which, besides being imported, are also manufactured in the country and the difference between the indigenous price and c.i.f. price for them varies from intermediate to intermediate. The study, subsequent to the changes in the import duties has been initiated for early revision of the bulk drugs prices.

(d) The names of the intermediates in the negative list of imports are listed in the Export Import Policy 1992—97 issued by the Ministry of Commerce. These intermediates are included in the Negative list of imports to safeguard the interests of the indigenous industry.

Advantage of the Open Sky Policy to Private Entrepreneurs

3889. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names, alongwith salient features, of the private entrepreneurs which have taken advantage of the Open Sky Policy in the country so far ;

(b) the number of domestic flights which each one of them is operating daily, sector-wise, and the facilities like counters, space, etc. made available to each one of them by the airport authorities at various stations ;

(c) how far these facilities compare in area space and other logistic arrangements with the national carriers as also the time bound plans to give them more facilities ; and

(d) the representations received from each one of them with comments ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The "Open Sky Policy" of the Government is in respect of air cargo flights only.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Foreign exchange outflow through national carriers

3890. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :
SHRI E. BALANANDAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gulf Air and other International carriers are being allowed equity participation with private operators at the cost of national airlines ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that international carriers are not permitted to fly in domestic sectors in advanced countries like USA, UK, France as also in SAARC countries ; and

(c) if so, why India is resorting to a policy leading to drainage of large sums of foreign exchange out of India from the share of national carriers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) An investment proposal by M/s. Jet Airways that they may be owned by Tailwinds Limited, a company incorporated in the Isle of Man, in which Gulf Airways and Kuwait Airways would hold shares upto 40% and the balance would be held by NRI, has been approved by the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The benefits accruing out of equity participation are higher as compared to the outflow of foreign exchange.

Losses to Indian Airlines due to strikes

3891. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the losses suffered by Indian Airlines because of strikes in 1992-93 ;

(b) the alternative travel arrangements made for the travelling public and the role played by each private operator during the strikes in Indian Airlines ; and

(c) whether the Open Sky Policy of Government has justified its existence ; if so, the details of incentives/facilities planned for them in the next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Airlines suffered a loss of Rs. 47.97 crores on account of strikes during 1992-93.

(b) During the period of strike from 10th December, 1992 to 25th January, 1993, Indian Airlines operated a contingency schedule based on operation of flights by Executive pilots, Vayudoot aircraft and wet leased aircraft from M/s. Uzbekistan Airways and M/s. Balkan Bulgerian Airlines. Air Taxi operators also increased their operations during the strike period and carried a much larger number of passengers.

(c) 21 permits have been issued to Air Taxi operators out of which 18 are operating flights on the domestic Sector. Fresh Guidelines has been issued as of 1-3-94 for Scheduled Domestic Operators. No specific plan for 3 years has been prepared for incentives/facilities for Air taxis/scheduled domestic operators.

Representations against non grant of advance increments in Air India

3892. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has received representations from its employees with regard to non grant of advance increments to some of them who resigned from Central Government to join Air India ;

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions/guidelines to Air India to settle such representations ;

(c) since how long such representations are pending ; and

(d) when will the same be considered ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Government guidelines employees joining Air India after resignation from Government are to be treated as fresh recruits and their pay regulated according to rules of Air India.

(c) and (d) Representations received from time to time are disposed of in accordance with Government guidelines.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Air India

3893. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) how many applications were received by Air India as on date for voluntary retirement under the scheme introduced in Air India for officers and other employees :

(b) the details of such applications accepted and rejected with reasons therefor ;

(c) how many applications are pending as on date, and the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether this scheme was changed any time after its introduction ; and

(e) if so, why and what are the changes ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Air India received 113 applications from Officers/Staff for voluntary retirement in terms of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme introduced in December, 1988.